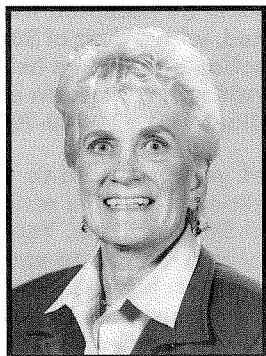


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator
Bev Hammerstrom
State Capitol • Lansing, MI 48913
1-888-477-8238
www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom

September 27, 2004



NATIONAL DEPRESSION SCREENING DAY IS OCTOBER 7 National Depression Screening Day is held each October during Mental Illness Awareness Week. Like screenings for other illnesses, depression screenings should be a routine part of health care. Screening Day is designed to call attention to the illness of depression on a national level, educate the public about its symptoms and effective treatments, offer individuals the opportunity to be screened for depression, and connect those in need of treatment to the mental health care system. Attendees at screening programs, which are free and confidential, hear an educational session on depression, complete a written screening test, discuss the results with a mental health professional, and, if necessary, learn where to go for additional help. If you would like to learn more about depression screening, or find a screening site near you, please visit www.mentalhealthscreening.org or contact my office.

DID YOU KNOW? More than 80% of all cases of clinical depression can be effectively treated with medication, psychotherapy, or a combination of both.

GAS STATION INSPECTIONS INCREASING The Senate recently voted to increase funding for more inspections of gas stations in an effort to check the quality and quantity of their fuel pumps. At least 30 new inspectors will be hired for the state's program in an effort to increase the accuracy of gas pumps in Michigan. Enhancing funding for the inspection program will provide permanent consumer protection by allowing more random inspections to catch noncompliant stations. Due to the lack of adequate staffing, the state Department of Agriculture conducts inspections only when a complaint is received. Michigan's 2003 compliance rate was 88 percent. Improving compliance rates to the national standard of 95 percent could save Michigan's consumers more than \$300 million annually. Of the approximately 5 billion gallons of gas pumped annually in the state, nearly 400 million gallons are not dispensed with the proper quality or in the proper quantity. For more information about MDA's efforts, please visit www.michigan.gov/mda.

TIRE COLLECTION DAY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 16 Monroe County residents wishing to discard old tires may take advantage of a tire collection day scheduled for Saturday, October 16, from 8 a.m. to noon. The event is sponsored by the Monroe County Solid Waste Department and Holcim (US), Inc. Passenger vehicle tires will be accepted free of charge, with a limit of 50 tires per person. Semi-truck and farm implement tires will also be accepted, with a limit of 30 and 10 per person, respectively, for a small fee. Only clean, rimless tires will be accepted. The collection site will be held at Holcim, at 15215 Day Road, in Dundee and is open to Monroe County residents with picture identification. To learn more about the tire collection day, please contact Jamie R. Dean, Monroe County Solid Waste Coordinator at 734-240-7909.

DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 2 Michigan residents who have not yet registered to vote must do so quickly in order to be eligible to participate in the November General election. In addition to being a resident of this state, you also must be at least 18 years old by the date of the election and be a United States citizen. You can register at any Secretary of State branch office or county, city, or township clerk's office. You may also register to vote by mail and forms are available at your local clerk's office or from the Secretary of State website. If you register to vote by mail, and you have moved to a new voting jurisdiction or are registering for the very first time, you must vote in person in the first election in which you participate. The only exceptions are if you are 60 years old or older, disabled as defined by law, or temporarily living overseas. For more information in regard to registering to vote or the upcoming election, please visit the Secretary of State's website at www.michigan.gov/sos or your local county, city, or township clerk's office. The last day to register to vote is Saturday, October 2.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov